

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **April 1, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel		x
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Chris Bodek sat meeting

Meeting was called to order at by Tom Burke and second by Fred Meagher and approved (5-0)

Meeting minutes from both March were not reviewed. Tom Burke to take Art Monaco notes and formally submit minutes.

Old Business

Tom Burke is to notify the City Clerk in regard the board's decision to renew Bred Davis's License (C.O.B. #71) for a total cost of \$225.00. This was done via email, Davis paid said fee and his licensed was renewed.

Discussion will continue on Binghamton's Board standardizing qualifications for master plumber License testing for review and eventual acceptance by the Endicott / Johnson City Boards.

Discussions will also continue on changing classifications of plumbing licenses, and review of the state-wide Texas Code.

New Business:

Tom Burke reviewed two (2) letters from the Johnson City Plumbing Board stating that Chistopher Scott Ashley and Thomas Anthony Testa were approved to take their Master Plumbers Test.

Tom Burke was asked to contact Rick Holden on when the last joint meeting was held, when the next will be held, and if Johnson City was to add a practical (hands on) portion to their exam. Per Rick the last meeting was on 3/15/2013 and was called early because Tom Costello couldn't make it to discuss fees for future permits. He said the next meeting would be May 15th at 6:00 PM. He also said J.C. would not be adding a practical portion to their exam this year because he didn't have the time to put one together

Three applications for the Binghamton Master Plumbers Exam were reviewed and accepted by the board. Tom Burke will send acceptance letters to John Feeko, George Slavick III, and Michael Piccirilli. Part one will be on June 1st and Part two on July 2nd. Tom Costello also requested that George Slavick III provide university transcripts of his courses and copies of his reference certificates.

Tom Costello discussed prospect of assuming responsibility in Building Department for issuing & signing licenses has been postponed for three months.

Art Monaco stated he could not make the May 6th meeting so it was agreed to postpone it until the 13th. Art Monaco and Rudy Gasper also requested there be a discussion at the next meeting to change meeting days from the first Monday of each month to an agreed date from all members to avoid conflicts with their schedules.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom Costello and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting is scheduled for **May 13, 2013 at 3:45 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **May 13, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel	x	
Art Monaco		x
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Late arrivals Fred Meagher 3:55 / Bob Handzel 4:05

Meeting was called to order at 3:45 by Tom Burke, seconded by Tom Costello and approved (3-0)

Meeting minutes from both March & April were reviewed Tom Costello noted typo for the spelling of "George" in the April meeting minutes. Tom also asked Tom Burke to call George Slavik III and in regard to Mr. Slavik's college transcript, which has not yet been received, as requested. With that said Tom Costello motioned for minutes to be accepted as noted. Motion was second by Fred Meagher and approved (4-0)

Old Business

Discussion will continue on Binghamton's Board standardizing qualifications for master plumber License testing for review and eventual acceptance by the Endicott / Johnson City Boards.

Discussions will also continue on changing classifications of plumbing licenses and review of the state-wide Texas Code.

Tom Burke contacted Rick Holden. The next joint Plumbing Board Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM, May 22, 2013 at the Johnson City Library. Rick also stated there would not be a practical (hands on) addition to J.C. master plumbers exam because he didn't have the time to put one together.

Rudy & Art requested that the Board have a discussion about changing meeting dates for the next meeting each month to avoid scheduling conflicts with each member. This request was reviewed by Tom Burke and Tom Costello. Tom Costello stated because the meetings are open to the public changing meeting dates from the first Monday of each month was not a good idea.

Tom Costello discussed prospect of assuming responsibility in Building Department for issuing & signing licenses has been postponed for three months. (Stated at April 1st meeting)

New Business:

Tom Costello said he reviewed correspondence received from the attorney representing Chris Bodek, in regard to the issue of renewing Mr. Bodek's City of Binghamton Master Plumbing license. The original correspondence was addressed and transmitted to the City of Binghamton Corporation Counsel, Ken Frank, Esq. Fred Meagher suggested the Board advise Corporate Council to terminate all Licenses issued through Oneonta and wait for their decision.

Rudy Gaspar asked if homeowners were allowed to do their own plumbing work. Tom Burke stated that City Council had already made changes to local law prohibiting this type of activity. Tom Burke requested a copy of said changes to show homeowners, if or when he is asked about this regulation.

Tom Burke submitted an application for the Master Plumber exam, on behalf of an applicant, Leonard Chapman, whose application was problematic because he had filed subsequent to the due date for this year's Master Plumber exam. The Board agreed to accept said application and will allow Mr. Chapman to sit for the exam. Tom Burke stated he would call and send an acceptance letter out to Mr. Chapman.

Tom Burke submitted a request received from the Binghamton's Water Department, in regard to RPZ backflow protection, i.e. all future water service installations, with the exception of residential services, will be required to provide backflow protection. Currently, the NYS Plumbing Code only requires backflow prevention on specific applications (fire protection, mechanical equipment, and appliances), but this protection is not universally required for water services. Therefore, the proposed regulatory action could not occur unless the City of Binghamton first submitted a request to the NY Department of State – Codes Division, for review and approval of a "more restrictive code standard." The Board agreed to review issue at the next meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbers. In the meantime, Tom Costello will investigate the legal and administrative procedure required to achieve a more restrictive local standard.

The Mayor and Plumbing Inspector, Tom Burke, have been in discussion in regard to the use of plastic piping use. Once again, questions were raised about the approved, more restrictive standards imposed under the local code. Between Tom Burke's conversations with the Office of the City Clerk, and with help from Rudy Gaspar, we believe these conditions have been clearly identified. This information, as below, was read into the record and distributed to meeting attendees.

- a) Floor drains, in each commercial, industrial, and public rest rooms. See NYS plumbing code section 412.4 slightly different, to be enforced
- b) "S" traps prohibited Per NYS plumbing code 1002.3 they are Dead issue.
- c) Building sewer, clean-out required between sidewalk and curb. Requirements are listed in 708 of NYS plumbing code. However specific requirement and detail is provided by the C.O.B. To be enforced.
- d) Vent extensions, terminate at least 15" above roof. Per section 904.1 of NYS plumbing code 18" now required. Dead issue
- e) Plastic piping, prohibited in residential buildings over 2 stories. Per section 3002.1 (1) or the NYS Residential Code "plastic" (ABS & PVC) are allowed. Note: NYS plumbing code sections 702.1 & 1102.4 plastic piping (ABS&PVC) are allowed for storm & sanitary piping installations. This was revoked in 6/4/2007 Dead issue
- f) Future vent connection in basement. Note there is no clarification on a size, etc. Per section 917 of the NYS plumbing code AAV valves are allowed. The Board agreed that because AAV's are now recognized by NYS code these are now acceptable. Tom Burke stated if it's possible he is enforcing tie-in to existing vents. Only in situations where this is not possible / practical are they allowed.

Bob Handzel and Tom Burke agreed to come up with new questions for the Master plumbers exam coming June 3rd.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting and Part I of Master Plumbing exam is scheduled for **June 3, 2013 at 3:45 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **June 3, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel	x	
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello		x
Tom Burke	x	

Four applicants (George Slavik, Mike Piccirilli, John Feeko, and Leonard Chapman) to take Master Plumbers Test were spread out and given their exams at 3:45. Note: As requested by the Board, Mr. Slavik submitted a copy of his collage transcript for review.

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 by Tom Burke, seconded by Fred Meagher and passed (5-0)

Meeting minutes from the May were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Fred Meagher. Motion seconded by Art Monaco and approved (5-0)

Old Business

Tom Burke stated he suggested that standardizing qualifications for master plumber License testing be done at the joint Endicott, Johnson City, and Binghamton Board meeting, at the **May 22, 2013** meeting. Members in attendance agreed, Rick Holden stated that in order to get through the issue, key members from all the boards needed to be present. Rick said he would send emails out to try and establish a date everyone could agree to attend. The Binghamton Board agreed that this would be the way to go.

Tom Costello discussed prospect of assuming responsibility in Building Department for issuing & signing licenses has been postponed for three months. (Stated at April 1st) Art Monaco questioned what that meant. This will be reviewed at July's meeting with Tom Costello.

Tom Burke submitted a request received from the Binghamton's Water Department, in regard to RPZ backflow protection, i.e. all future water service installations, with the exception of residential services, will be required to provide backflow protection. Currently, the NYS

Plumbing Code only requires backflow prevention on specific applications (fire protection, mechanical equipment, and appliances), but this protection is not universally required for water services. Therefore, the proposed regulatory action could not occur unless the City of Binghamton first submitted a request to the NY Department of State – Codes Division, for review and approval of a “more restrictive code standard.” The Board agreed to review issue at the next meeting of the Joint Board of Plumbers. In the meantime, Tom Costello will investigate the legal and administrative procedure required to achieve a more restrictive local standard. Item to remain open for discussion.

New Business:

Fred Meagher was asked to draft a letter to the City of Binghamton Corporation Counsel in regard to any license issued through the City of Oneonta. This correspondence will reference materials prepared by Rudy Gaspar, in regard to the relationship between proper licensing and public safety. Tom Burke stated only involved Kevin Sheldon and Chris Bodek because, according to Rick Holden, Tom Testa has already been qualified and subsequently passed the Exam for Master Plumber in the Village of Johnson City.

In regard to Rudy Gaspar’s question if homeowners were allowed to do their own plumbing work, Tom Burke stated that per Tom Costello local Law was changed. Tom Burke to get with Tom Costello for a copy of change.

Tom Burke submitted an application for the Master Plumber exam, on behalf of an applicant, Luke Walz, whose application was problematic because he had filed subsequent to the due date for this year’s Master Plumber exam. The Board agreed to deny said application. Tom Burke to call Walz, to resubmit application by April 1, 2014. The \$50.00 application fee is to be refunded.

A letter from Johnson City’s board was reviewed stating that Christopher Scott Ashley had passed his Master Plumbers Exam.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting and Part I of Master Plumbing exam is scheduled for **July 1, 2013 at 3:45 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004